

Earth First!

Action Update

No.36 FEBRUARY 1997

30p

'Rituals are not relics of the past, but reminders of the future.'

FAIRMILE EVICTION - AT LONG LAST!

Before I go, I'd like to tell in the way that connects them, so neither man in the tunnel'

Los ranchos of Lieutenant Colonel George Estor, pursuing the bravery and determination of the Vietnam tunnel fighters. Chunks down! S. Thomas 1996

At 9.30 p.m. on Thursday 22nd January the long-awaited eviction of the Fairmile camp, the longest running road protest site in the country, began with a cordon being put around the site, and climbing up to cut the access highways.

The Under Sheriff of Devon, Trevor Coleman, had hoped to find the camp virtually empty, but despite the surprise of the timing of the attack, there were 20-25 people in the trees and five people in the tunnels. This was not going to be an easy day's work. No work was done overnight, merely a serious cordon (including river watch units, placed around the site and police dogs being used. Despite this at least 15 people breached the police lines and passed their belongings up the trees. Due to Richard Turner's



Looking from Fairmile, 2 weeks before it was to be evicted

hasty warning in the prospect of no more expensive climbing holidays funded by tree evictions, and also the fact that those at the trees kept their cool, the people were not removed from the trees for going a mile.

During this time five marked up get leaders and two 'safety officers' began to show up the first 12m feet of the Big Manna tunnel network following the request published in the last Action Update about tracking down the caves that have been used in recent militant actions. A trip off has been received that they are based from Peter Fawling at Specialist Rescue International, 128 Station Road, Redhill, RH1 1EJ. Apparently it reads from PO Box 266 Redhill tel 01737 244652. Check out the accuracy of the information before using it. It took until 1pm on Sunday 26th before climbers had removed the last of the tree defenders. That man has funded a climbing trip to the Andes who just happened to be someone who had been previously employed as a highway security guard! At this stage the underground battle had failed to break even the first door in the labyrinth. The tunnels decided to raise demands which at most would mean that they would leave of their own accord. Unfortunately early morning radio news alerted the Sheriff to a series of these demands and he responded by evicting the communications staff at 7am. Despite that the demands were issued on behalf of the tunnels at 7am and the media circus that we are now everyone witnessed, began in earnest. The demands did to some extent force the great to look at the tunnel relief in the building at the road and so all was not lost. Unsurprisingly Trevor Coleman the Under Sheriff turned them down.

In London, around this time, work was stopped for the day on a Balfour Beatty site where five people from London Labour The Streets climbed a crane and hung a banner reading 'Frustrated Vandalism' - was building DFO's. We love you 7 yards! (Balfour Beatty are involved in the construction of the A30)

get their heads around it, the intense pressure from the media for 'human interest' stories has resulted in article 16c, the one in The Express (2nd February), in which they showed Swampy up in a variety of expensive suits and then removed their readers that underneath the stuffy exterior and veneer of anti-state suits, these had a respectable suburban middle-class heart. In all fairness to Swampy, he did do it with his tongue firmly in his cheek and the money went straight to paying off his £200 fine for damaging swamping equipment at highway last year. To further illustrate the point, Arsenal, on emerging from his suit in the tunnels, has been offered a column in The Mirror entitled 'You'll like this! Arsenal Wins! Very funny, not! She has yet to make a decision, but has said that if she does it, she will use the column to expose multinational and to galvanise people into taking action! We have yet to see whether or not any radical ideas may try to get across will be removed out of existence! We will not even go into the offer from a very large record company to record a single!

P.S. When I the 1st time evicted just so fully? Don't you think that all these evictions and tunnels were so much and heavily? Seems like something might have changed in the past five years or so - or perhaps it had something to do with the fact that the media were allowed to witness an eviction! For an alternative viewpoint on the A30 evictions ask people involved in the Toffere evictions where the media were kept out. Anne V Babes, A30 Action!

A30 Action! has a huge phone bill after the last few months of sustained resistance to the road and the recent evictions. Any donations towards paying this bill would help otherwise they may have to send Swampy out to do some more modelling. Make cheques payable to Queens. Trish and send to A30 Action! PO Box 6, Ottery St Mary, Devon EX11 1YL. For any more information on any aspect of the construction of the road and the resistance to it contact the A30 Action group on 01404 345729

RECLAIM THE COAST! TARGET THE OIL INDUSTRY! NEA EMPLOYERS ANNIVERSARY ACTIONS AT MILFORD HAVEN, SOUTH WEST WALES ON 14th - 16th FEBRUARY. FOR MORE DETAILS CONTACT: 01749 812665.
FOLLOWED BY RECLAIM THE VALLEYS III - THE SAGA CONTINUES! IN SOUTH WALES ON 17th - 19th FEBRUARY.
FOR MORE DETAILS CONTACT: 0385 711364.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

It has recently been reported in various mainstream media outlets that mobile phones are being used by the authorities to infiltrate leading doctors. It has been revealed that even when not in use as a mobile phone, using triangulation with the mobile phone transceiver/receiver stations, can reveal its true position to within fifty feet! It has also been admitted by some companies that they store numbers and movement information for up to two years!

The A320 road widening scheme near Cardiff will cut a new path through Strangely Common. Planning permission is currently going through and help is urgently needed. Harry May camp is becoming more lively by the day but more people are needed as they are in danger of spending themselves too early along the route. For more details and donations contact Strangely Common Campaign on 01493 32567. Their website address is: <http://www.groestian.com/madcard452/harrymay.km2>.

A new Earth First! group, Warwick EFL, has been set up. If anyone can help them getting to the Melford Haven across from the Warwick or Leamington Spa areas contact them on 01925 431137.

The US Earth First! Roadshow that was due to come over to the UK this spring has been delayed until July or August so that more funds for the trip can be raised. Watch the Action Update for more details or e-mail them at uswefl@eroge.org.

The entire text of volume 2 of TONCAT, the journal that covers issues and related news, is now available on the internet at <http://www.gn.apc.org/toncat/>.

A trip is planned to go to the Aspo Valley around Easter time to help blockade and resist the imminent evictions there. It will probably be leaving on March 24th. If you would like to go on the 24th, or have transport and would like to go at a different date contact Aspo Valley Solidarity on 01248 713604.

Fish Estate, the largest ranking US anarchist paper, has just published its most recent issue. Continuing with its 'empirical' approach to technology and evolution the most recent issue includes comprehensive article on a new book about the social ecology of Murray Bookchin and an interesting piece on the Unabomber. For a cheap copy check your local radical bookshop or write the writer: Housman Bookshop 2 Colindale Road, London is they stock copies.

Miswatch is a network of people primarily concerned about the impact of mining on the environment and indigenous peoples. They produce Higher Values, a magazine covering news related to these issues. The new issue is available Jan 03 66 from Miswatch, McRobert Chisland, 34 Chiswell Road, London, SE5 0BL.

NEWBURY REPORT

Seventy five people engaging in random protests and later enjoying tea and sandwiches with Arthur Scargill at Newbury's Community Centre inquires how many police? Try tea not vain, pursuit and patrol vehicles, a helicopter and TSG1 Ransom of 'Police intelligence' not clearly false, but this was 3 days after the reason falls. This is half the number of police that attended Scargill's speech at the rally and there were none present when he spoke later that day in Reading. As Arthur said in Newbury, "All the freedoms we now take for granted have been won by people who, when conscience dictated, have been prepared to defy the law". Well said.

Constat: First crash victim at Newbury? Friday 10th February is the deadline, we hope, for Constat's sale of its US coal assets. If this fails then refinancing arrangements with India and other Malaysian industrialists will not occur. Bye bye Constat! Who knows - a final Constat EGM to coincide?

The Third Battle is on, coming, right now, out roaring and reeling. The office financed by David Banks and Friends of the Earth has now closed. Telephone, fax and the Post Office box are still open with the information number 01635 355932. Regular meetings and events continue as well as hopefully actions.

A recent WWF report shows the balance in attempts in transgenic species. Although there is no information yet as to the survival rate of the Desmodium's Whorl seed material at Newbury, things don't look good especially when one considers the sensitivity of this extremely rare species. It's going to be one of those 'we told you so' situations isn't it? Sorry Dell we really don't appreciate your lack of concern - just admit it if you might just have well run them over.

CAMBUS, the farmers group against the bylaws, have launched a 3 year programme to monitor the effects on the water quality of the bylaws construction, including the Lambourn and Kennet rivers, two of Britain's finest chalk rivers. The work by Surrey University is co-ordinated by Dr Noel Ward who works on the M25 around wealthy landowners, the Afflecks who own Harrods, to reach an out of court settlement of over a million pounds with the Department of Transport for pollution from vehicles caused by motorway water runoff. Local residents are establishing a monitoring network to complement the CAMBUS programme which will report and log findings by contractors as they occur.

Fairies events? There is a Beach Party expected this summer. Bring your bucket, spade, deckchair and radio? Let's build sand castles on the route of the Newbury Bypass! Expect hills to be cut and valleys filled during spring and summer this year.

There are quite a few people serving time at the moment for highway offences, call for more details and support from wherever possible. Contact Third Battle of Newbury on 01635 45544.

DELTA UPDATE

Shell is now using armed escorts to check equipment before resuming full oil production in Ogoni despite continuing repression by Shell-backed Nigerian soldiers.

The Ogoni 19 hostages lost their recent appeal and are still held in appalling conditions. Shell has been keeping the dust out of the press by taking journalists on pleasure 'Shell trips' but still had to drop its complaint to Channel 4 about being in cohorts with the regime. It has also now started paying the military. The company is being sued by the family of Ken Saro-Wiwa over the company's

'knowledge, consent and/or support' of the executions, and their past in a conspiracy to violently and ruthlessly suppress any opposition to [Shell's] conduct in Ogoni and the Niger Delta. Powerful oil workers' unions note that Shell 'could easily become the target of very serious political action' in the future.

In the UK over thirty pictures of Shell gangsters happened at the end of last year, including a 29 hour lock on to a Shell tanker in Newcastle. As well as this most of the Shell's Shell gangsters were hit and other actions and rallies of up to 400 people happened around the world.

In Ogoni thousands of troops flooded the area, and there were random arrests, tortures and killings. On Ogoni Day, 80,000 people demonstrated but the army studied 18 communities, arrested over 70 people, and opened fire into crowds. Acting President of MBOGP Ladun Mwaio called on activists to step up the pressure on Shell. Warning the Ogoni issue is key for all activists fighting for environmental rights issue two of DELTA has been distributed internationally, including in the Niger Delta itself. If you have ideas for future issues or if you are interested in a national Ogoni strategy meeting in March contact DELTA on 0116 255 3223.

GWYNEDD & MON EF!

Last September Gwynedd and Mon Fawcett farmers stormed one of the local Shell garages. A banner depicting a coffin and the slogan the ultimate Shell was hung from the roof. The petrol was switched off for about half an hour before the farmers realised. Meanwhile all the angry customers were lashed and many decided to go and fuel up elsewhere. While some people just stood around with banners and others refused, the symbolic hanging was staged, a jar of Shell's cancer was read out and people died among puddles of blood. When the police finally arrived in a riot van they ended up sympathising and protecting activists from a totally nutty garage owner who had very much lost his cool. He accused them of causing the loss of local jobs - but didn't seem to care how they were doing this. The blockade lasted two hours and they left after writing Shell in blood on the forecourt.

ANGLESEY

Last month a school on Anglesey adapted a Hawk jet from Anglesey Valley RAF base. The name of the school was painted on the fuselage and the children were taken to admire it. Sgt Ted Constable explained the role of the Hawk at RAF Valley and its use with the Red Arrows Display Team. No mention was made of what it is used for at last. Time now that the Indonesian pilots are trained there. After a look around the main Hawk hangar, the kids went off to the nation's Golf Club for lunch and a special gift package.

Please write poems, record off letters to Head Teacher, Yvonne Gwynedd Bookchin, Woodmen Yrps Mm, Gwynedd and send copies to: Richard Pary-Jones, Education Department, Pary Mount, Yrps Mm County Council, Llangefni. Yrps Mm Gwynedd.

DOCKERS SUPPORT

Monday 21st January was an international day of action in support of the sacked Liverpool dockers who have been fighting for short pay and against casualisation since September 1995. Scores of countries sent solidarity services, from Japan to the US to Scandinavia to Cyprus, including 24 hour work stoppages in many places. At 6am that day a convoy of six cars entered

How to Contact the Earth First! Action Update

By Post: Earth First! Action Update, PO Box 9656, London W4 4JY. By Phone: 01753 561 9946. By E-Mail: actionupdate@gn.apc.org. Please enclose a SAE for replies, and to subscribe to the free e-mail server send us your details. Earth First! Website address: <http://www.erc.mind.ac.uk/transport/earthfirst.html>

EF! CONTACTS FEBRUARY '97

Activist
PO Box 100
Dunstable, Bedfordshire
MK22 7JY
Tel: 0455 220100
http://www.dunstable.org.uk

Asian People's
Box 31
Cambridge Road
Cambridge CB2 3RQ
Tel: 01223 300100

East Valley Review
23 Valley Road
Barnsley
S70 2JY
Tel: 01223 300100

Blackburn EP
12 Redburn Road
Blackburn
Lancs BB1 2BN
Tel: 01524 771000

Cambridge EP
Box 2
12 Mail Road
Cambridge
Tel: 01223 300100

London EP
PO Box 1
Cambridge CB2 3RQ
Tel: 01223 300100

Wokingham EP
12 Wokingham Road
Wokingham
Berkshire RG40 2JY

London People's
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12 Wokingham Road
Wokingham
Berkshire RG40 2JY

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WHAT IS EARTH FIRST!?

Earth First! is not a single cohesive group or a campaign; it is a movement based on people who share similar philosophies to work under. The general principles behind the name are non-hierarchical organisation and direct action in defence, stop and eventually reverse the forces that are responsible for the destruction of the Earth and it's inhabitants. The various and autonomous groups that consider themselves to share the above principles, international contacts are only people who share the same philosophy of groups. Other contacts are only where sites and principles are sites that we agree with fully or in part, or groups that we think may be of use or interest to people. New additions or alterations are always in hand.

Liverpool docks, despite getting and shoving from the considerably large pocket that morning. The police, desperate to get the 'scab cars' past the crowd, didn't look too carefully at their passengers and unwittingly let in a group of armed Liverpool dockers and several of their supporters (who thought they'd also passed about importing genetically engineered food as well while they were about).

The cars drove straight to the bottom of the garages used to unload cereals and soya and the occupants quickly found their way to the top, where it took enough time to settle in before a beautiful sunrise. A large and vocal pocket, a non-drove point and on all eight caddies right helped the protesters occupy the garages for over 26 hours, before coming down and getting arrested. Twelve people were charged with aggravated trespass and breach of the peace. For more information contact the dockers on 051 207 3388.

GREEN THE SKIES!

In the light of the Secretary of State's decision to give the go-ahead to the construction of Manchester Airport's second runway people recently set up camp on the site of the proposed extension. The construction of this runway will involve the destruction of 42 ponds, 150m of hedgerow, woodland and seven hectares of mature woodland.

On top of this there will be a significant contribution to global warming from the increased air travel. It has been estimated that recent prosecutions for air travel mean that any rising up of the destruction of the entire layer from CFL bank will be completely negated. It is not until the chief economist, adviser to the Department of Transport has estimated this aircraft emit 35-65% more CO2 than cars per passenger kilometre travelled. Combined with the pollution that will result from the proposed road developments to service the airport it can be called nothing less than an ecological disaster.

As roads campaigns have had a significant effect on the roads programme, residents at the runway camp hope that aviation and airport developments including Manchester, Heathrow and Newcastle will come under close scrutiny.

In the mean time the Manchester people have been told from the airport itself, basically saying that they wanted the land the airport have reverts back to 'nature' each day to visit the campers and release them if they are trespassing. Whilst legal moves beyond this have been slow in coming, the campaigners have begun tunnelling and have set up a second camp. As ever more people are needed to establish other camps. The airport have claimed that they want to start construction work in April so not expected to start efforts to evict people at any time. For directions to the camp and more information on the campaign contact: Children Against Runway 2 on 0161 854 8221 or telephone the camp directly on 0950 491525.

NEWCASTLE TO NEWBURY

Early in the morning on Friday 10th January a group of local people arrived at the offices of Mori MacDonell in Newcastle. Pretending to be delivery people they gained entry and decorated the office with an unimagined patch Christmas tree. As well as this they then proceeded to help them with their badly organized filing system, rearranging the files in a more appropriate way. Some people held in depth discussions with the managers whilst others locked on in the office. Two police turned up but seemed uninterested and left without arresting anyone. After two hours they were asked to leave but people preferred to stay for

a while longer having none of a look through files and talking with employees. For more details contact Newcastle Bath First on 0191 273 4997.

MONEY DEFACECTION LEAGUE

The Money Defacement League that was born at the Big Green Gathering has been catching people's imaginations throughout the country. For anyone that is new to this revolutionary group their idea is to write subversive messages on all bank notes that make their way, however briefly, through our greedy little hands. According to a letter that the Action Update has received (kindly in particular) has become a harbinger for this kind of activity and, if the information we have received is correct, it now looks like Norwich may well be next, with somebody having graffiti'd on every note they are starting to be handed from shops as they have never been in before! Messages such as notes floating around the country include 'Abolish wage labour', 'I have time to be angry at our capacity we really do have to kill time to be free don't we?' and 'I never saw a world in which beauty is a remainder of what we're losing rather than a caricature of what we have'. We have also heard of a merchant banker regularly indulging in this kind of pastime. We have not heard of any employed notes being rejected as of yet, so let your imagination loose and join the league!

GO GORLEBEN!

In the beginning of March, probably 1st - 5th, as CASTOR nuclear waste tanks from the French reprocessing plant at La Hague and some from German nuclear power stations are supposed to arrive at the German nuclear waste site at Gorleben near Hamburg, Germany.

In the last two years intensive campaigns of picket, armed with water-cannons, forced through over CASTOR transports with around 5-10,000 people resisting them. There was due to be a shipment in November 1998 but this had to be cancelled due to the financial crisis (the last shipment cost £25 million) and the growing number of people that are prepared to take direct action to halt it.

With this shipment the German nuclear state plans to crush the resistance with mass police presence to a last effort to frustrate any opposition. A water cannon as seen by some tanks stretches over half a mile and is difficult to evade and it seems that the conveyer can be prevented this time because the capacity of the site is safeguarded it is reaching limits.

A new tactic has been to be developed to disrupt all protesters along the transport route in resistance camps, because otherwise there will be too many people to gather at one place. Each particular camp will have different tactics to try and halt the shipment including sit-down blockades, tunnels and digging up the road.

If you want to help fight this nuclear anarchy try to be in the city of Dusseldorf as the Gorleben area is in the beginning of March. Near the city centre there is a camp opposite a petrol station which provides all the information. If you can't find it, call. There are tents, but if possible take along your own. To get there take a ferry from Rarisch to Hamburg, then take a train from Hamburg to Ulfen and from there a bus to Dusseldorf. Try to look 'average' as the police may arrest or send back people entering the Gorleben area who look like protesters. Bring waterproof gear to protect you against water-cannons, and heavy clothes to protect you against the police.

The contact is telephone 0649 3841 4684 or fax 0649 3841 5197. They will call you when the transport starts and you have to then get two or three days left to reach the site.

EVENTS

FEBRUARY

- 10-18 **Reclaim The Coast** Tregueth (011) 401 401. 'We Progress' donors: 'reclaim' notice board. See www.reclaim.org.uk, affinity programme: A. Venn@reclaim.org.uk, or reclaim@reclaim.org.uk in Bristol and Exeter. In Leeds, 043 330 0000. In Cornwall, 01747 401 401. For more information contact 01747 401 401. 01747 401 401.
- 15-18 **Reclaim The Valley** 011 401 401. 'We Progress' donors: 'reclaim' notice board. See www.reclaim.org.uk, affinity programme: A. Venn@reclaim.org.uk, or reclaim@reclaim.org.uk in Bristol and Exeter. In Leeds, 043 330 0000. In Cornwall, 01747 401 401. For more information contact 01747 401 401. 01747 401 401.
- 17-20 **Reclaim The Valley** 011 401 401. 'We Progress' donors: 'reclaim' notice board. See www.reclaim.org.uk, affinity programme: A. Venn@reclaim.org.uk, or reclaim@reclaim.org.uk in Bristol and Exeter. In Leeds, 043 330 0000. In Cornwall, 01747 401 401. For more information contact 01747 401 401. 01747 401 401.
- 21 **No More Asylum** to build the extension of the first bank of Dungeness. Reclaim the valley. Time for the people of Dungeness. More info at Dungeness. Visit: www.dungeness.org.uk. Contact: 01323 340023.
- 21-22 **Gathering in Newcastle** 011 401 401. 'We Progress' donors: 'reclaim' notice board. See www.reclaim.org.uk, affinity programme: A. Venn@reclaim.org.uk, or reclaim@reclaim.org.uk in Bristol and Exeter. In Leeds, 043 330 0000. In Cornwall, 01747 401 401. For more information contact 01747 401 401. 01747 401 401.
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- 23-24 **Reclaim The Valley** 011 401 401. 'We Progress' donors: 'reclaim' notice board. See www.reclaim.org.uk, affinity programme: A. Venn@reclaim.org.uk, or reclaim@reclaim.org.uk in Bristol and Exeter. In Leeds, 043 330 0000. In Cornwall, 01747 401 401. For more information contact 01747 401 401. 01747 401 401.
- 24-25 **Reclaim The Valley** 011 401 401. 'We Progress' donors: 'reclaim' notice board. See www.reclaim.org.uk, affinity programme: A. Venn@reclaim.org.uk, or reclaim@reclaim.org.uk in Bristol and Exeter. In Leeds, 043 330 0000. In Cornwall, 01747 401 401. For more information contact 01747 401 401. 01747 401 401.

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APRIL

- 1-7 **International Earth Rights Day** 011 401 401. 'We Progress' donors: 'reclaim' notice board. See www.reclaim.org.uk, affinity programme: A. Venn@reclaim.org.uk, or reclaim@reclaim.org.uk in Bristol and Exeter. In Leeds, 043 330 0000. In Cornwall, 01747 401 401. For more information contact 01747 401 401. 01747 401 401.
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MAY

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FOREST ACTION NETWORK

On Wednesday 15th January, twenty people from the newly formed UK Forest Action Network occupied the Canadian Tourist Office in Trafalgar Square, London to protest against the felling of British Columbia's Great Central Rainforest.

Direct action has 'invaded' the few remaining fragments of the wild forest of Clayoquot Sound in Vancouver Island, so the taxpayer-subsidised company have backed up north to the unspoiled forests of Mid-Crest B.C. Reserve private forests are still being destroyed for toilet paper on the shelves of our local shops.

Sevens in 1990s from Britain and Canada entered the office, chained the doors and re-arranged a window display to show clowns and, as the words of current television adverts to encourage people to 'Discover Canada's True Nature'. Clowns roared the outside of the building with a banner demanding 'CANADA SAVE YOUR RAINFOREST'. Outside, the pavement was scattered with woodchips fresh from B.C. planers who were asked a curious question were left silent. After an hour, police cut the chains and terrified everyone out. There was nationwide television and press coverage in Canada, a country renowned for its massive range, unacceptably preserving the B.C. Minister of the Environment to tell Canadian press to 'lay off the European coverage'. 'No way,' says TAN!

This was only the first action of the Forest Action Network (UK) who have pledged to use direct action to save the world's forests, but by protecting Scandinavian old-growth remnants or stopping the trade in stolen Brazilian mahogany. To find out more about Forest Action Network (UK) contact: 0171 602 5884

RECLAIM LEE BANK

Lee Bank is part of the Birmingham Four-way Centre Quarter. While the International Convention Centre, the National Labour Centre and the Brindley Place development have had £100,000 spent on them, Lee Bank has had a little change over the last few years. Three hubs for Forest Action money plus endless meetings was involved in little gain for the residents. The number of people attending meetings had fallen and the council seemed to have forgotten about the area altogether. Following one such meeting recently a few residents got together and decided to do something positive and 'Reclaim Lee Bank' was founded. Firstly a huge poster was put up on a billboard on the main road nearby, reading 'WELCOME TO LEE BANK - BIRMINGHAM'S SLUM QUARTER'. The following day an invasion of the local

neighbourhood office took place and then another, this time of the main housing offices. A rooftop protest at the home of a local Tory leader topped a list of events being well covered by all the local press. In the last few weeks, work that had been left undone for months has now been completed and three families that had been living in appalling conditions have since been rehoused. Several council officers have approached the group and meetings are taking place that are now about how the group aims to be achieved rather than just the state of the world was the order of the day, before the action. For the first time in years the residents are feeling optimistic about what they can achieve. The campaign is continuing. The contact address is Reclaim Lee Bank, PO Box 5818, Birmingham B15 2BA.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLE UNDER THREAT

The Tapanahni and Tapanahni, Mexico's most isolated indigenous people who number around 100,000 and 120,000 respectively, are under threat from a deadly combination of drug traffickers and loggers. These two tribes live mainly in the western Sierra Madre in the area of Chiapas in Northern Mexico, and until now have avoided contact with the destructive forces of civilisation and have maintained an agricultural way of life supplemented by gathering and hunting. Logging is seriously displacing the forest where the Tapanahni and Tapanahni live and many of them are little option but to move to the cities, where they end up in squalid shanty towns. Many of the loggers, who are working illegally, are co-operating with drug traffickers. The two large Mexican cartels who control the trade in drugs have tried to seize control of the Indians land, and people who have tried to resist this have been imprisoned, tortured and murdered. For more details on this and other indigenous people's struggles, and what you can do to help, contact Survival International on 0171 242 1441

ANIMAL RIGHTS ACTIONS

On Saturday 1st February, during a march through the centre of Doxet, to mark the second anniversary of Jill Papp's death, crushed under a lorry while protesting against the export of live animals from the UK, the front of the local McDonald's store was completely wrecked by people. As well as this, the post was completely blocked for around 2 hours by 400-500 people. Elsewhere, Barry Horne, an animal rights campaigner currently in HMP Bristol, has been on hunger strike since 7th January calling on the

government to ban all vivisection within five years.

Barry was arrested last July whilst placing incendiary devices in shops linked to the vivisection industry and is still awaiting trial. His action has led to support demonstrations from as far afield as New Zealand, Holland, and the USA, and the other 13 animal rights campaigners currently held in UK prisons refused food for 48 hours last week as a protest of support.

In the UK, the Research Defence Society and various far groups have been deflected by animal rights campaigners. On 18th January following a support picket, various people visited a nearby vivisection breeder's establishment and liberated several kittens which would otherwise have been sold for experimentation. Four other cats were released by police using infra-red detectors and promptly killed by the breeder (who claimed they were now 'contaminated'). About seven people were arrested.

Various other actions are planned to highlight Barry's cause and the urgent issues it raises. To express your support for Barry write to him at Barry Horne VC2141 HMP Bristol, Hatfield, Bristol BS7 8PS. For an update on Barry's situation telephones 01202 632873

FASLANE NEWS

Spring was welcomed at Faslane Peace Camp with a mud park party that brought loads of Glasgow folk back whom had not been to visit in years. Due to the nature of what they do and who they hang about with everything went completely mad and for a while looked like it was not going to happen, but ended up as a brilliant romp in the mud! "We are feeling bad and hardy and looking forward to a very busy Spring," says one of the camp's residents.

They are starting with a women's action from 14-17th March. Camping will be at a beautiful site close to Faslane itself, thanks to a local landowner. Next up will be WinterWorld between 21-25th March with workshops on NWDA in the water, boat diving, safety and general tactics. There will be loads of different art action groups converging on the banks of Clydebank to share experiences and expertise on these five fun-filled days. The last day will include a selection of actions of your choice remember it is Scotland and they have everything from nuclear submarines to genetically modified salmon at the farms!

Last but not least is the unforgettable Chemical day actions over April 25-28th. People are calling for international days of action, (historically they want people to visit their local nuclear whatever!) This will be their first big action for 1997 and they are hoping for loads of folk to be every site in Scotland. There will be workshops focusing on the broad issues of nuclear accidents, waste etc as opposed to just the weapons issue. Contact Faslane on 01436 630961.

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